

Dear Commissioners:

Stop hidden phone fees so I can truly compare prices of phone services. I support the petition filed by the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and endorsed by other consumer advocacy organizations. CG Docket No. 04-208, Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Truth-In-Billing and Billing Format, is long overdue.

Phone bills should be truthful and easy to understand. When my friend first signed up to get her phone they asked her what all she wanted she told them nothing just phone line, because that is all she could afford. Well they told her that her phone bill would run \$14.00 (not for sure how much change so it was \$14.something), anyways she NEVER received a bill for that cheap. It was always over \$21.00 & she had NO long distance. No why was that what caused that--they told her \$14 & it was over \$21. Needless to say my friend doesn't have her phone anymore she is disabled & has Cancer & now thanks to rising costs for no reason she is left without a phone. No matter what kind of a education you have you can never fully understand the phone bill.

Because this practice is tolerated by the FCC, long distance and wireless phone companies are able to hide the true cost of service. These add-ons make the advertised price of service significantly less than the amount of the check I have to write each month to pay the bill. Competition will not work if consumers cannot accurately compare prices when shopping for service.

Many states are stepping up to address this problem. They should be allowed to proceed. However, the FCC shouldn't shirk its responsibility, nor limit states from doing more.

The FCC should immediately grant the NASUCA petition to investigate billing practices, and prohibit phone and wireless companies from imposing separate monthly fees, line items or surcharges unless expressly mandated by law or the charge is expressly authorized by a governmental authority.